

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing claim amendments, claims 1-12, 15-26, and 28-32 will be pending. Claims 1-12 and 15-25 have been allowed. Claims 27, 28, and 32 have been objected to and claims 26 and 29-31 have been rejected. Claims 26 and 29 have been amended. Claim 27 has been cancelled and no claims have been added. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and figures and, for example, at paragraphs [0153]-[0158]. No new matter has been added.

Claims 26 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,072,771 (“Charny”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,504,820 (“Oliva”). Claims 1-12 and 15-25 have been allowed and claims 27, 28, and 32 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. The Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation Examiner Sam’s telephone discussion on October 27, 2008 in which the Applicants discussed the objections to the claims and the foregoing amendments to the claims in view of the existing prior art. The Applicants have amended independent claim 26 to incorporate the features of claim 27 as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants have also amended independent claim 29 to incorporate the features of claim 27 as discussed with the Examiner.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Charny in view of Oliva. As claims 30-31 depend from claim 29, the Applicants further respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Charny in view of Oliva.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney Hilary A. Reinhardt at (215-564-8973).

Respectfully submitted,

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